

# CCM 2012 Testimony

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## ***JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

March 29, 2012

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **S.B. 455, "An Act Concerning the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities"**

CCM understands the intent behind this proposal. However, we are unsure of the logistics of how such a one-size-fits-all proposal would be implemented.

SB 455 would require towns and cities to comply with the State set-aside policy, if they use state funds for projects.

CCM empathizes with the policy goals of this proposal. However, it must be said that it will add administrative costs to local governance.

CCM is unsure of how SB 455 would interact with *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, wherein the courts ruled that federal set asides were discriminatory in a guard rail case and, therefore, local officials signing them were subject to treble damages. CCM urges the Committee to reduce municipal liability exposure by requiring the State to assume responsibility for any constitutional damage verdicts.

Thank you.

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If you have any questions, please contact Ron Thomas at [rthomas@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rthomas@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3000.